

INFORMATION ABOUT VOTERS' LISTS.

A PRESSING DUTY.

It is of the utmost importance to our cause that every available prohibition vote should be polled on January 1st next. In this contest we do not win by a bare majority. We win a victory that will be of value in proportion to the size of the majority recorded in favor of prohibition. The voting is not upon a direct law. It is simply an expression of public opinion, and its worth will be in its magnitude. Every vote polled will be an increment of strength to our cause, and every prohibition vote unpolled will be a weakness.

These facts place upon us a heavy responsibility to do our utmost in the impending campaign. In order that our votes may be polled it is absolutely necessary that they should first be made pollable. Votes cannot be polled unless the voters' names are on the voters' lists. Bearing in mind this important fact, we earnestly urge upon prohibitionists everywhere to at once take steps to see that the voters' lists to be used on January 1st next are made as complete as possible from a temperance standpoint.

There should be at once appointed in every municipality an active working committee to see that this result is attained. The subjoined information has been carefully compiled for the use of workers generally, and such committees in particular.

WHO MAY VOTE.

The persons entitled to vote on the prohibition question on January 1st next are:—

1. All men entitled to vote at an election for the Legislative Assembly.

2. All women entitled to vote at municipal elections.

Any male person twenty-one years of age, a British subject by birth or naturalization, has a right to have his name placed on the voters' lists if he has (a) resided within the province for the nine months next preceding the time fixed for beginning to make the assessment roll, or (b) has resided within the province for the twelve months next preceding the time up to which application can be made to the County Judge to insert his name on the list; provided that he was in good faith at the time of beginning to make such roll or complaint, a resident of and domiciled in the municipality in the list of which he is entered. Temporary absence at work, as lumberman, miner, fisherman, or as a student in Canada, shall not disentitle such persons to be entered on the list. Any enfranchised Indian, or non-enfranchised

Indian not residing among Indians or on an Indian reserve, may also have his name placed on the list. A person who is to be twenty-one years of age within sixty days of the date of the final revision of the assessment roll may be placed on the list.

Unmarried women or widows of the full age of twenty-one years, and subjects of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization, have a right to be entered upon the assessment roll, and upon the municipal voters' lists who are: (1) in their own right freeholders in the municipality, or (2) householders or tenants in the municipality, or (3) in receipt of an income of not less than four hundred dollars per annum. The property to be owned or occupied in order to entitle a person to a vote must be worth in towns and incorporated villages at least one hundred dollars; in towns where the population is not over 3,000, two hundred dollars; in towns with a population of over 3,000, three hundred dollars, and in cities, four hundred dollars.

The following persons are not permitted to vote:—Judges, Clerks of the Peace, County Attorneys, Custom Officers, Registrars, Sheriffs and Deputies, Crown Land Agents, Postmasters, Stipendiary Magistrates, Excise Officers—prisoners in gaol, patients in asylums, patients in municipal or provincial charitable institutions, or receiving aid therefrom.

No person is entitled to vote whose name is not entered on the voters' lists.

The voters' list is made up of three parts:—Part 1—Names of men entitled to vote at municipal elections and Legislative Assembly elections. Part 2—Names of men and women entitled to vote at municipal elections only. Part 3—Names of men entitled to vote at Legislative Assembly elections only.

To enable them to vote on the prohibition question on January 1st next, men's names must be entered in part 1, or part 3, and women's names must be entered in part 2.

The voters' lists for the different municipalities in the Province of Ontario are based upon the assessment rolls, and the regular mode of securing a place on the voters' lists for the name of any person entitled to vote, is through the assessor. The law has, however, provided for securing the rights of voters who have failed to obtain recognition in the regular way. The following summary of information will show how this can be accomplished:—

FROM THE ASSESSMENT ACT, 1892.

Unless in special cases hereafter mentioned, the assessment is to be completed in each municipality, and the assessor's roll is to be filed with the clerk of the municipality, on or before April 30th.

The roll shall then be open to the public for inspection. (Sec. 50.) Any person aggrieved by the assessment, or whose name has been wrongfully omitted from the roll, may have the error corrected by giving to the clerk notice of his intention to appeal. Such notice must be given within fourteen days after the day of the return of the assessor's roll, if that return take place later than April 30th. (Sec. 64, s-s. 1, 2.)

A Court of Revision shall then be held to consider all appeals against the assessment. This Court is not to hold its first sitting until at least ten days after the end of the time during which appeals may be made. (Sec. 60.) The sitting of the Court must be advertised ten days in the newspapers. Notice must be given to persons concerning whom complaint has been made. (Sec. 64, s.s. 7.) The work of the Court of Revision shall be complete before July 1st. (Sec. 64, s.s. 19.)

If any elector has failed to secure his rights from the Court of Revision, he may appeal to the County Judge, notice of such appeal being given to the Clerk of the municipality within five days from the date fixed for closing the Court of Revision, that is from July 1st. (Sec. 68, s.s. 2.) The County Judge shall fix a date for hearing these appeals, which must be heard and determined before Aug. 1st. (Sec. 68, s.s. 7.)

The foregoing provisions of the Assessment Act are those applicable to municipalities generally. It is provided, however, that cities, towns and incorporated villages, may pass by-laws providing for the taking of their assessment between the 1st day of July and the 30th day of September. In such cases the assessment work shall be completed by October 1st; the Court of Revision shall close on November 15th, and the Judge's work must be completed by December 31st. Of course, this has all been done in those municipalities in which it could affect the voters' lists to be used on January 1st next.

There are also special provisions for the taking of assessments in the municipality of Shunias, and in certain municipalities in the Districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing, Thunder Bay, and Rainy River.

It is also in the power of County Councils to fix dates for the taking of the assessment in the municipalities within their jurisdiction. Such dates must be fixed between February 1st and July 1st. If the date for the completion of the assessment is later than May 1st, then the Court of Revision is to finish its work six weeks from the date on which the assessment closes, and the final return of the Judge is to be made six weeks later.

The cases just mentioned are, however, exceptional. Full information as to whether or not they apply in any particular

municipality may always be obtained from the Clerk of that municipality, who will generally be found willing to give all such information.

FROM THE VOTERS' LIST ACT, 1889.

Immediately after the final revision by the Judge, of the assessment roll, the Clerk of the Municipality shall make and post up in different places, a list of persons appearing from the assessment roll to be entitled to vote at Legislative Assembly elections and Municipal elections. The list shall be posted in cities within forty days, and in other municipalities within thirty days from the date of the final revision of the assessment roll. (Sec. 3.) Copies of the list shall be filed at every post office and at every public or separate school in the municipality. (Sec. 5.) If no appeals are made against this list within thirty days from the time of its being posted, the County Judge shall certify to it as being correct. (Sec. 16.)

Appeals may be made against the list if incorrect. Notice of such appeals is to be given to the Clerk within thirty days after the posting of the list. If such appeals are made, the County Judge will hold a Court to decide them, notice of such Court being published ten days. (Sec. 13.)

The Judge shall so hold his Court that all complaints shall be heard and the list finally certified to, within two months of the last day fixed for making complaints. (Sec. 15.)

It will be seen from the foregoing statement that appeals may be made to the Court of Revision against the assessment, to the County Judge from the Court of Revision, and again to the County Judge against mistakes in the voters' list. Persons entitled to vote can have their names added to the voters' list by making the necessary application within thirty days after the Clerk has posted his first draft of the list. The Clerk will furnish the necessary forms to those desiring to make such applications.

The right plan for committees to take is: (1) Ascertain when the list is posted; (2) immediately after its being posted, carefully scrutinize it and ascertain what qualified voters are omitted from it; (3) see that application is at once made to have these names added to the list; (4) see that the application is followed up by the necessary appearance before the County Judge, and the giving of evidence to show that the names should be added.

It will be manifest that this work must be looked after by a carefully selected committee in every municipality.